

Appl. No. 10/681,340
Amdt. dated September 14, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A combustion suppressing cartridge for attachment to the outer surface of a fuel tank, the outer surface including a plurality of faces, said cartridge comprising:

- a) a casing, said casing defining an internal cavity; and
- b) a quantity of combustion suppressing material within said cavity;

wherein said casing is sized and shaped so that a plurality of cartridges may be affixed, in a scattered arrangement, to each of one or more of said faces of the outer surface of the fuel tank.

Claim 2. (Original) The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing is sufficiently tough to withstand loads encountered during normal operating conditions, and sufficiently brittle so that said casing ruptures under severe loads.

Claim 3. (Original) The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing is of a generally transparent material.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing comprises mineral filled formulated polyethylene.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing is formed of an expanded multi-layered parison.

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Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing is elongate along a longitudinal axis parallel to a length dimension of the casing, and narrow in each of a thickness direction and a width direction, the width and thickness directions being perpendicular to each other and to the longitudinal axis.

Claim 7. (Original) The cartridge of claim 6 wherein said casing is generally rectangular in cross-section, having a cross-sectional thickness that is less than the cross-sectional width.

Claim 8. (Original) The cartridge of claim 6 wherein said casing is generally circular in cross-section.

Claim 9. (Original) The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing is generally disc-shaped.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said casing comprises a generally flat joint surface to facilitate adhering the cartridge to a portion of one of said faces of the fuel tank.

Claim 11. (Original) The cartridge of claim 1 wherein said combustion suppressing material comprises at least one of the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate, potassium chloride, ammonium phosphate, and halon.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A fuel tank to which a plurality of combustion suppressing cartridges may be attached, said fuel tank comprising:

- a) an outer surface having a plurality of faces; and
- b) a plurality of sockets provided in a scattered arrangement in each of at least one of said faces of said outer surface, each of said

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plurality of sockets sized and shaped to receive at least one of the plurality of combustion suppressing cartridges.

Claim 13. (Original) The fuel tank of claim 12 wherein each socket comprises at least one resilient lip adjacent the outer surface of said tank for engaging said at least one cartridge in snap-fit.

Claim 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 23 wherein said outer surface of said fuel tank is provided with a plurality of sockets, each socket being shaped to receive at least one of said plurality of cartridges.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 15 wherein each socket comprises at least one resilient lip adjacent the outer surface of said tank for engaging said casing of said cartridge in snap-fit.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 15, further comprising an adhesive between the casing of each of said cartridges and an inner surface of the sockets of said fuel tank.

Claim 18. (Original) The combination of claim 17 wherein said adhesive comprises a length of double-sided tape.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 17, wherein each of said cartridges comprises a generally flat joint surface, and said adhesive is positioned between said joint surface and said inner surface of said sockets.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the tank comprises contour irregularities, and the casing size is sufficiently compact to be affixed to said contour irregularities.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

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Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The fuel tank of claim 12 wherein each socket has a depth extending inwardly from the outer surface of the tank towards the tank interior, the depth of each socket being adapted to receive said at least one cartridge such that said at least one cartridge does not protrude past the outer surface of the tank adjacent each socket.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) In combination, a fuel tank and a plurality of combustion suppressing cartridges, said fuel tank comprising an outer surface having a plurality of faces, and each of said plurality of combustion suppressing cartridges comprising:

- a) a casing surrounding a cavity; and
- b) a quantity of combustion suppressing material within said cavity;
- c) said casing being sized and shaped so that said plurality of cartridges may be affixed, in a scattered arrangement, to each of one or more of said faces of said outer surface of the fuel tank; and
- d) ~~The combination of claim 14 wherein the tank has~~ having a tank length, a tank width, and a tank height defined by mutually perpendicular dimensions of an imaginary box enveloping the tank, and wherein said casing has having longitudinal and transverse dimensions defining a casing length and a casing width, each of the casing length and the casing width being smaller than the smallest one of the tank length, tank width, and tank height.

Claim 24. (New) A combustion suppressing cartridge for attachment to the outer surface of a fuel tank, the outer surface including a plurality of faces, said cartridge comprising:

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- a) a casing, said casing defining an internal cavity; and
- b) a quantity of combustion suppressing material within said cavity;

wherein said casing is sized and shaped so that a plurality of cartridges may be affixed, in a scattered arrangement, to each of one or more of said faces of the outer surface of the fuel tank and wherein the casing has longitudinal and transverse dimensions defining a casing length and a casing width, and wherein mutually perpendicular dimensions of an imaginary box enveloping the tank define a tank length, a tank width, and a tank height, each of the casing length and casing width being smaller than the smallest one of the tank length, tank width, and tank height.

Claim 25. (New) The cartridge of claim 24 wherein the outer surface of the tank comprises contour irregularities, and the casing size is sufficiently compact to be affixed to said contour irregularities.

Claim 26. (New) The cartridge of claim 24 wherein said casing comprises mineral filled formulated polyethylene.